



Dkt. No: A0729 (XC-009)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Linda T. Romano et al.

Application No.: 09/976,394

Art Unit.: 2826 ✓

Filing Date: 10/12/2001

Examiner: V.A. Mandala

For: "SPRING STRUCTURE WITH STRESS-BALANCING LAYER"

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: July 16, 2003

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

- Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application.
- STATUS:** Applicant is other than a small entity.
- EXTENSION OF TERM:** The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.
- FEE FOR CLAIMS:** The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

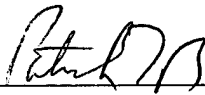
	(Col.1)		(Col. 2)		(Col. 3)		LARGE ENTITY	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For		Present Extra		Rate	Addit. Fee
Total	19	Minus	20	= 0	x \$18 =	\$0		
Indep.	2	Minus	3	= 0	x \$84 =	\$0		
First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim							+ \$280 =	\$0
Total							Addit. Fee	\$0

No additional fee for claims is required.

- FEE DEFICIENCY:** If any additional extension and/or fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Customer No. 28014

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER
Patrick T. Bever
Reg. No. 33,834

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 16, 2003.

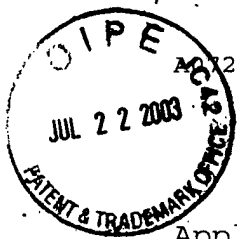
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A0729 (XC-009) Serial No. 09/976,394

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Linda T. Romano and David Kirtland Fork
Assignee: Xerox Corporation
Title: SPRING STRUCTURE WITH STRESS-BALANCING LAYER
Serial No. 09/976,394 File Date: October 12, 2001
Examiner: V. A. Mandala Art Unit: 2826
Atty. Dkt. No.: A0729 (XC-009)

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 16, 2003

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on May 16, 2003, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire August 16, 2003.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-19 are rejected for reasons set forth below. Claims 10 and 16 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as being allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Summary of the Invention

Applicants' invention is directed to a spring structure of a type a spring metal finger an unlifted anchor portion attached to a substrate, and a released claw portion extending over the substrate. The spring metal finger is formed from a stress-

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